

REMARKS***Remaining Claims***

Claims 1-5, 8, 40, 45, 69, 73, 75, and 79 have been amended to more clearly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Support for the amendments of those claims can be found, for example, in the paragraph bridging page 6 and page 7, the paragraph bridging page 7 and page 8, the first complete paragraph on page 8, the first complete paragraph on page 10, the third paragraph on page 11, and Figures 2-5. After these amendments are entered, seventy seven (77) claims (Claims 1-5, 8-40, 42-61 and 63-81) remain pending in this application through this Amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-5, 8-40, 42-61 and 63-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is moot in view of the amendments of claims 1-5, 8, 40, 45, 69, 73, 75, and 79. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of claims 1-5, 8-40, 42-61 and 63-81.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 8-40, 42-61 and 63-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection over claims 1-4, 8-40, 42-61 and 63-81 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention is not obvious in light of Clark because the cited reference does not meet all the limitations of the invention as currently claimed. As stated in the MPEP at 706.02(j), to establish a prima facie case of obviousness the "prior art reference (or references combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations." As the Examiner noted and stated in the Bord decision, paper No. 20, mailed July 26, 2002, Clark discloses that the polymerization of the starting material should proceed from the center of the mold outwards in order to avoid polymerizing that portion of the starting material in the mold which is adjacent to the edge of the mold cavity and, consequently, blocking off the reservoir from the center section of the mold cavity (Col. 7, lines 5-11). Clark teaches uses of a diaphragm which may be an opaque screen having a circular opening which is smaller than the diameter of the lens being cast. Such diaphragm with an opening smaller than the diameter of a lens being cast certainly will not be able to define the edge of the lens. However, Clark does not disclose nor suggest anything about: at least one mask that is associated with one of the first and second mould halves having an energy-permeable mould surface and that extends inwardly right up to the mould cavity and surrounds the mould cavity so as to screen all areas behind the mask with the exception of the mould cavity; using the mask to spatially restrict

impingement of the energy to an energy-impinging region which is defined by combination of the first and second mould surfaces and an imaginary wall extending between the first and second mould surfaces and surrounding the mould cavity, wherein the imaginary wall is formed by transferring the boundary contour with the mould cavity of the mask in a two-dimensionally parallel and downwards manner from one mould surface to the other mould surface; and crosslinking, under the spatial restriction of the energy impingement, essentially only the starting crosslinkable material located inside the energy-impinging region to form a moulding having a first surface defined by the first mould surface, an opposite second surface defined by the second mould surface and a **clean and burr-free moulding rim** which does not require any subsequent mechanical processing and at least partial areas of which are defined by the imaginary wall which is defined by the boundary contour of the mask with the mould cavity. Thus, the reference does not teach all the limitations of the Applicants' invention as currently claimed, and as such, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Moreover, Clark does not appreciate that a moulding having a **clean and burr-free moulding rim**, which does not require any subsequent mechanical processing and at least partial areas of which are defined by the imaginary wall which is defined by the boundary contour of the mask with the mould cavity, can be produced by crosslinking of a starting crosslinkable material under a spatial restriction of energy impingement. Clark on col. 10, lines 46-49 states:

In view of the foregoing, it will be appreciated that, as used in this specification, the term "lens" includes lenses which are cast in the final desired shape (**except for edgeing**) as well as semi-finished lens blanks. [Emphasis added]

Clark also teaches how to **edge** a lens (col. 8, lines 47-58). This teaching is completely different from Applicant's invention. Clark therefore teaches away from the Applicant's invention, and as such, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

In sum, Applicants respectfully submit that, since Clark does not teach nor provide a motivation to arrive at the present invention as currently claimed, the Applicants invention as currently claimed is patentable over Clark and request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark in view of European Patent Application 484,015. For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. As discussed above, the primary reference (Clark) does not anticipate nor render the present invention obvious. The secondary reference (European Patent Application 484,015) does not fill the gap left by the primary reference. Applicants respectfully submit that the primary reference, alone or in combination with the secondary reference, does not teach or provide

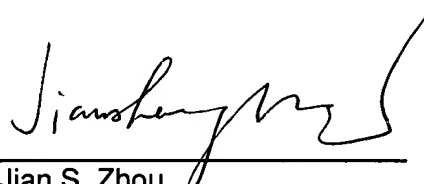
a motivation to arrive at the present invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the Applicants invention as currently claimed is patentable over Clark in view of European Patent Application 484,015 and request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing and in conclusion, Applicants submit that the rejections set-forth in the Office Action have been overcome, and that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a discussion with Applicants' representative would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned. Please address all correspondence to Robert Gorman, CIBA Vision, Patent Department, 11460 Johns Creek Parkway, Duluth, GA 30097. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2965.

Respectfully submitted,



Jian S. Zhou
Reg. No. 41,422
(678) 415-4691

Date: Jan. 7, 2004

CIBA Vision
Patent Department
11460 Johns Creek Parkway
Duluth, GA 30097